Services under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) what are the specific recommendations of the National Consumer Protection Council in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Earlier, Government had constituted a high power working group to suggest suitable amendments to make the Consumer Protection Act more effective. The group has recommended inclusion of the following items within the purview of the Act:—

(i) the goods or services which are likely to cause loss or injury to consumer;

(ii) services relating to housing construction;

(iii) Hospital services and services relating to water supply, health care etc., provided by local bodies etc.;

(iv) goods purchased for self-employment;

(v) restrictive trade practices like tie-up sales etc.

(b) Central Consumer Protection Council in its meeting held on 31-3-92 accepted the suggestion to include the above items within the purview of the Act. However, the State Food Ministers opposed the inclusion of health services and other services relating to water supply, sanitation, etc., provided by local bodies within the ambit of the Act.

(c) The recommendations of the Council are under consideration of the Government.

Fires in the Shalimar Tar Plant

401. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shalimar Tar Plan in Lodna area caught fire through the colliery on 17th March, endangering the whole area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the land and the factory belongs to BCCL but stands deserted both by the Private owner and BCCL creating this fire hazard and making the area unsafe;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of coal

402. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal during the Seventh Five Year Plan vis-a-vis the target fixed;

(b) what is the estimated production and consumption of coal in the country during the year 1992-93;

(c) the measures taken by Government to achieve the target by increasing production of coal;

(d) the estimated production thereof during the Eighth Plan; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent threon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The total coal production of the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period vis-a-vis the targets

fixed is as under:—

(in million tonnes)

Year	Coal Production (in	
	Target	Actual
1985-86 . .	154.50	154.20
1986-87 . .	166.80	165.79
1987-88 . . .	183.50	179.72
1988-89 . . .	196.28	194.60
1989-90 . . .	209.50	200.89

(b) The country's coal demand in 1992-93, as assessed by the Planning Commission, is estimated at 254.50 million tonnes (excluding 5.30 million tonnes of middlings). The country's coal production target for 1992-93 has been fixed at 238.20 million tonnes. The gap, if any, between demand materialisation and production is proposed to be met by drawal from pithead stocks and in case of coking coal for steel plants by imports for blending purposes.

/ (c) Steps taken to augment coal production *inter alia* include opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, application of new technologies to achieve maximum results and ensuring timely avilability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

(d) and (e) The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission have approved a coal production plan of 238.20 million tonnes for the country for 1992-93, the first year of the Eighth Plan. The Planning Commission have also approved an investment plan of Rs. 2282 crores for the coal sector for 1992-93.

Discontinuation of coal linkage to Gujarat Power Projects

403 SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal linkage to Gujarat power stations and industries, is going to be discontinued from the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternative energy linkage will be provided to Gujarat after discontinuing linkage of coal to power stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. MYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Adequate and timely supply of coal to Power Stations

404. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state what measures are being taken by Government to ensure adequate and timely supply of coal to Power Stations of the country during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): Supply of coal to power utilities is being given priority over all other sectors. Their coal requirements are linked with the sources of supply for each quarter of the year by Standing Linkage Committee for Power Sectors (Short Term). Supplies during the quarter are made in accordance with these linkages. The despatches are monitored on daily basis and corrective steps are taken, whenever necessary, to ensure regular supplies.

कोयला उद्योग का आंशिक रूप से निजीकरण किया जाना

405. श्री अजीत जोगी :
कुमारी आलिया :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोयले के मूल्यों में वृद्धि करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकारके विचाराधीन है ;

(ख) क्या इस प्रस्तावित वृद्धि और कोयला उद्योग के आंशिक रूप से गैर-सरकारीकरण का कोई परस्पर संबंध है ;